

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

-----251741Z 038956 /46

R 251545Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS STATE 016225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, BU

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO US FIRM

1. MR. FORBES HOWARD HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING DIFFICULTY HIS FIRM IS FACING IN HAVING A CARGO TRUCKED FROM SOFIA TO TEHRAN.

2. MR. HOWARD'S FIRM, CHAPIN CROUP, CONTRACTED WITH FRG FIRM WILLY BETZ, TO DELIVER FIVE SEALAND CONTAINERS FROM PREMERHAVEN TO TEHRAN. THESE CONTAINERS, LOADED TO SEALAND SPECIFICATIONS AND AVERAGING 44,000 POUNDS, EACH CONTAINED PREFABRICATED MATERIALS FOR PURPOSE OF ERECTING TOTAL FIVE MODEL HOUSES IN TEHRAN. SUPPLY OF CONSTRUCTION TOOLS WAS ENCLOSED IN THE CONTAINERS.

3. UPON ARRIVAL IN SOFIA ON OCTOBER 21, 1976, ONE CONTAINER, NO. 103831, UNDER BILL OF LADING NO. 971-726879 WAS JUDGED BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES TO BE OVERWEIGHT. THEREFORE APPROXIMATELY TWO TONS OF MATERIAL, BELIEVED TO BE CONTAINER'S SHARE OF TOOLS, WAS OFF-LOADED. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR A BULGARIAN TRUCKING CONTRACTOR

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TO PICK UP EXCESS MATERIAL IN CONVENTIONAL TRUCK AND TRANSPORT REMAINDER OF WAY TO TEHRAN. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE SO FAR FOR EITHER SEALAND OR CHAPIN GROUP

TO GET BULGARIAN FIRM TO DO SO, NOR HAS IT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN CLEAR EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE. FORBES HOWARD NOTED THAT IT WAS TECHNICALLY

THE PROBLEM OF SEALAND TO SORT THIS OUT, BUT THAT AS LONG AS MATERIAL WAS DELAYED IN BULGARIA, HIS FIRM WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT THE HOUSES IN IRAN.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT BULGARIAN ORGANIZATION, SOMAT, GORUBL JANE, SOFIA, BULGARIA 76561, AND DETERMINE THE NATURE OF PROBLEM. CONTACT'S NAME IS MR. PETROW. SEALAND AGENT IN TEHRAN IS MR. WILLIAM CARR AND HE CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE AT 891-060 OR 893-428. CHAPIN GROUP TELEX NUMBER IS 510-9537473. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN EMBASSY'S TELEX NUMBER.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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